

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-12 NRC-05 /078 W
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R 081040Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5386
INFO US MISSION USNATO 2385
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OSLO 1145

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MILI, NL, NO
SUBJ: VISITS OF DUTCH DEFENSE MINISTER KRUISINGA, FEB 24-27, 1978

THE HAGUE 1085

1. ERSTWHILE DUTCH DEFENSE MINISTER KRUISINGA PAID TWO SHORT VISITS TO NORWAY RECENTLY AND LEFT HIS NORWEGIAN HOSTS ALTERNATELY BREATHLESS, PUZZLED AND ANNOYED. ARRIVING ON FEB 25, TWO DAYS BEFORE THE START OF HIS OFFICIAL VISIT
KRUISINGA DOVE INTO A SERIES OF "PRIVATE" MEETINGS WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NORWEGIAN CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (CPP) DESIGNED TO CONVINCE THE PARTY TO ADOPT A PUBLIC POSITION MORE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO PRODUCTION/DEPLOYMENT THAN THE PRESENT MILDLY NEGATIVE NORWEGIAN STANCE. LARS KORVALD (FORMER PRIME MINISTER AND CCP PARLIMENTARY CHAIRMAN) AND HIS COLLEAGUES GAVE KRUISINGA SYMPATHY BUT LITTLE ELSE.

2. KRUISINGA BEGAN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH NORWEGIAN
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DEFENSE MINISTER HANSEN ON FEBRUARY 27 AND WAS THREE QUARTERS OF THE WAY THROUGH HIS SCHEDULE WHEN HE SUDDENLY RETURNED TO THE HAGUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARLIMENTARY DEBATE ON THE ER/RB (THE HAGUE'S 1085). PROMISING TO RESUME HIS CONSULTATIONS IN A FEW DAYS, HE DEPARTED. KRUISINGA ARRIVED IN BARDEFOSS ON MARCH 1 AND ATTENDED A DINNER HOSTED BY LTG

HUITFELDT, COMMANDER OF NORTHERN NORWAY, AND
ATTENDED ALSO BY LEADING NORWEGIAN DEFENSE OFFICIALS
AND VISITING NATO SEC GEN LUNS.

3. DURING HIS SEVERAL APPEARANCE, MINISTER KRUISINGA
PRESENTED THREE AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION WITH THE
NORWEGIANS. THE FIRST WAS THE QUESTION OF DOUBLING
THE NUMBER OF DUTCH MARINES UNDERGOING TRAINING IN
NORWAY. WHILE HIS HOSTS AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE
TO DO SO, THEY SAID THAT IT POSED SIMPLE LOGISTICAL PRO-
BLEMS AS THE TRAINING FACILITIES THEMSELVES COULD EASILY
BECOME STRAINED. THE NORWEGIANS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT
THIS KIND OF QUESTION SHOULD BE PURSUED WITHIN NATO AND
WITH SACLANT.

4. KRUISINGA NEXT RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF NORTH SEA
MARITIME SURVEILLANCE. HE MENTIONED NOT ONLY GREATER
OPERATIONAL COLLABORATION BUT ALSO SHARED RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE MARINE PATROL AIRCRAFT;
KRUISINGA SUGGESTED THE DUTCH COULD TAKE CARE OF THE
ELECTRICAL SYSTEM AND THE NORWEGIANS THE ENGINE.
THE NORWEGIANS RECOMMENDED THAT THE NETHERLANDS BUY
THE ORION AIRCRAFT USED BY THE ROYAL NORWEGIAN AIR
FOR AS A STEP TOWARDS GREATER MARINE PATROL COMMONALITY.

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5. KRUISINGA SUGGESTED THAT BOTH MARINE TRAINING AND
MARITIME PATROLS BE DISCUSSED FURTHER BY A NORWEGIAN/

DUTCH COMMITTEE OF ACTION- OFFICER LEVEL MILITARY OFFICERS.
THE NORWEGIANS AGREED.

6. BECAUSE OF KRUISINGA'S EARLIER ACTIVITIES IN OSLO
WITH THE CRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY, HIS GON HOSTS FELT
CONSTRAINED TO READ A STATEMENT ON THE NORWEGIAN ER/RB
POSTION WHICH CONCLUDED AS FOLLOWS.
BEGIN TEXT WE HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED PUBLICLY AND
IN NATO THAT THE ER/RB ISSUES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN
AN ARMS CONTROL PERSPECTIVE AND NOT SOLELY FROM A FORCE-
IMPROVEMENT POINT OF VIEW. END TEXT THE NORWEGIANS FURTHER NOTED
THAT THE DEVELOPING US VIEW DID APPEAR TO HAVE THE VIRTUE
OF PUTTING THE ISSUE IN AN ARMS CONTROL CONTEXT AND OF
GETTING THE WEST OUT OF
THE DEFENSIVE POSITION IT HAS
BEEN IN BY IDENTIFYING SOVIET FORCE IMPROVEMENTS WHICH,
THE NORWEGIANS COMMENTED, INCREASE THE NUCLEAR DANGER TO
EUROPE IN A MUCH MORE DRAMATIC FASHION THAN THE ERB/RB
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WEAPON. THE NORWEGIANS FURTHER UNDERScored THEIMPORTANCE THEY
ATTACHED TO AVOODING A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE US
AND WESTERN EUROPE OVER THE ER/RB ISSUE. KRUISINGA
REPEATED HIS PLEA FOR STRONG SUPPORT AGAINST ER/RB
DEPLOYMENT TO WHICH HIS HOSTS POLITELY LISTENED.

7. COMMENT: IN POST VISIT DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR
MOD OFFICIALS IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE NORWEGIANS WERE
BEMUSED AND SOMEWHAT ANNOYED BY DRUISINGA'S MEDDLING
IN INTERNAL NORWEGIAN POLITICS. THEY FELT LITTLE OF
SUBSTANCE WAS ACCOMPLISHED AND THHOUGHT THAT THE DUTCH
SUGGESTION TO INCREASE MARINE TRAINING WAS RELATED MORE
TO COUNTERING CRITICISM (BY SHOWING THEIR INCREASED COMMIT-
MENT TO NORTHERN FLANK DEFENSE) OF THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT'S
RELUCTANCE TO STATION A DUTCH BRIGADE FORWARD THAN
TO A REAL INTEREST IN WINTER WARFARE. THE NORWEGIAN
MOD ANTICIPATES LITTLE COMING OUT OF THE EXPERTS'.
COMMITTEE ALL IN ALL, AS ONE DEFENSE OFFICIAL PUT IT,
DUTCH DEFENSE MINISTERS COME AND GO AND MAYBE IT WOULD
BE BEST IF THIS ONE DID'T COME BACC FOR AWHILE. WE
NOT FROM MARCH 7 TRAFFIC (HAGUE 1173) THAT THIS WAS
QUITE A PRESCIENT REFLECTION.

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